UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22296
1 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 1 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note requesting regular reports on action taken by the New Zealand Government in implementation of Security Council resolution 661 (1990).

New Zealand provided assistance to Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines (and indirectly to Jordan) in September 1990 by flying 1,532 refugees from Amman to their home countries. Details of this assistance, and carriage of milk powder to Egyptian Red Crescent Society, are attached together with a statement made by the then Prime Minister of New Zealand concerning the various airlifts.

Annex I

Press statement dated 21 September 1990 by the
Prime Minister of New Zealand

The Prime Minister, Mike Moore, said today that an RNZAF Boeing 727 in the Gulf would make seven more flights to carry Asian refugees out of Jordan over the next week.

Mr. Moore said the extra flights to India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines would make New Zealand's involvement in the international Gulf operation the biggest peacetime relief operation since Cyclone Tracey hit Darwin in 1974.

Mr. Moore said he had already received many messages of thanks, including one from President Aquino, for the work New Zealand had done in taking refugees out of the Gulf.

> "Although our means are modest, no one can fault the constructive part we have played in the international response to the Gulf crisis.
>
> "Yet again New Zealanders can be found waging peace internationally - we should all be proud.
>
> "We have voiced our opposition to Hussein's actions, we have quarantined Iraq's economy with UN sanctions, and we have helped save people stranded after the invasion.
>
> "Every day our diplomatic staff in Iraq work to allow the remaining New Zealanders to leave Baghdad and Kuwait."

Mr. Moore said New Zealand's involvement in the international airlift of refugees had been in three stages.

An RNZAF Hercules took a load of milk powder to the Egyptian Red Crescent organization in Cairo, to help feed the Egyptian refugees from the Gulf conflict.

The Hercules then ferried two loads of Pakistani refugees (over 200 people) from Jordan to Pakistan, then flew 84 Filipino refugees home to Manila before returning to New Zealand.

The third stage was now under way, with an RNZAF Boeing 727 diverted from the Battle of Britain commemorations to provide additional refugee flights from Jordan.

Mr. Moore said the Boeing crew had expanded the planes carrying capacity to 120 people.

> "At the end of this stage we will have helped more than 1,600 Asian refugees escape from the Gulf crisis."

He said it was estimated that the operation would cost around $2.6 million.

Mr. Moore praised the work of all New Zealanders involved in the huge effort to coordinate the airlifts.

"It usually takes weeks to obtain the necessary flight clearance from other countries. These relief operations involve a large number of overnights and landings in other countries and the clearances have had to be obtained at very short notice.

"Our airforce and our embassies, particularly in the Middle East, have been working almost around the clock.

"They have all done a great job," Mr. Moore said.

Annex II

New Zealand Defence Force Assistance in Middle East Crisis

1. Tasks carried out to date:

a.	30 Aug.-4 Sept.	35,000 lb milk powder flown to Cairo and delivered to Red Crescent Society. (NEH 935)
b.	7 and 8 Sept.	179 Pakistani refugees from Amman to Karachi.
c.	9 Sept.	84 refugees uplifted from Amman and flown to the Philippines. Aircraft then returned to New Zealand.
d.	13 Sept.	123 refugees Amman to Karachi. (NGB 921)
e.	15 Sept.	117 refugees Amman to Karachi.
f.	17 and 18 Sept.	92 refugees Amman to Philippines.
g.	21 Sept.	111 refugees Amman to Dacca.
h.	22 Sept.	121 refugees Amman to Colombo.
i.	23 Sept.	129 refugees Amman to Bombay. (Aircraft backloaded 8,000 lb of rice to Amman)
j.	24 Sept.	120 refugees Amman to Dacca.
k.	25 Sept.	122 refugees Amman to Dacca.
l.	25 Sept.	127 refugees Amman to Dacca.
m.	27 Sept.	127 refugees Amman to Dacca.
n.	29 Sept.	80 refugees Amman to Manila. The aircraft then returned to New Zealand arriving on 1 Oct.

2. The breakdown of the statistics of the tasks to date are as follows:

a. Total hours for NGB 921 from first departure Amman until final arrival Manila 157.5.

b. Total hours for NEH 935 99.5.

c. Number of refugees carried to:

Pakistan	419	plus one cat
India	129	
Sri Lanka	121	
Bangladesh	607	
Philippines	256	
Total	1 532	